



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 2**  
**290 BROADWAY**  
**NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866**

MAY 11 2009

Kimberly Joyner-Banty  
Laurelwood Housing Area EIS Project Manager  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic (NAVFAC)  
Code EV21  
6506 Hampton Boulevard, LRA Building A  
Norfolk, VA 23508

Dear Ms. Joyner-Banty:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (EIS) (CEQ # 20090110) for the Laurelwood Housing Area Access project at Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle in New Jersey. On November 20, 2008, the U.S. Department of the Navy filed its draft EIS. The purpose and need for the action is to satisfy the contractual obligation of a lease agreement for the Laurelwood housing area between the Navy (the lessor) and the private developer (the lessee) of the housing area. The Navy has proposed providing access from the housing area to New Jersey Route 34 and would provide an easement to allow the developer to construct such a road. The easement would be securely separated from the functioning naval installation. Four action alternatives using new and existing rights-of-way, as well as the No Action Alternative, were evaluated. In our January 22, 2009 comment letter, EPA did not object to the project.

EPA would like to use this opportunity to encourage the Navy and the developer to implement greener practices and techniques during the construction and operation of the project. For example, air emissions during construction will include particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>). To reduce the potential health and environmental impacts of these pollutants in the project area and to improve the working conditions of the workers, the installation of diesel particle filters (DPF) on construction equipment should be considered. DPFs can reduce diesel particle emissions by 90 percent for stationary and non-stationary diesel equipment. To learn more about this technology and its application you can reference DPFs at <http://www.epa.gov/oms/retrofit/nonroad-list.htm> or contact us directly.

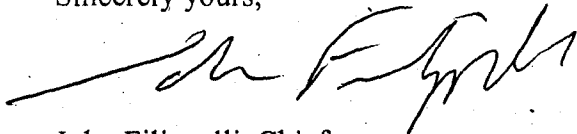
To meet electrical needs during construction and operation of the project, EPA recommends obtaining electricity from renewable sources. The Department of Energy's "Green Power Network" (GPN) provides information and markets that can be used to supply alternative generated electricity. The following link identifies several suppliers of renewable energy.

[http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying\\_power.shtml?state=NJ](http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=NJ)

Finally, we ask that the Navy encourage the developer to consider use of recycled industrial materials, such as coal ash in concrete, which can reduce the overall environmental footprint of the project. The environmental benefits include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced land disposal requirements, and reduced utilization of virgin resources. Information on recycled materials can be found at [www.epa.gov/osw/conserv/rrr/imr/indust.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserv/rrr/imr/indust.htm).

EPA would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final EIS for Laurelwood Housing Area Access. If you have any questions regarding this review or our comments, please contact Charles Harewood of my staff at 212-637-3753.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Filippelli", written over a horizontal line.

John Filippelli, Chief  
Strategic Planning and Multi Media Programs Branch